Ganga Action Plan

*428. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent it is fact that ambitious Ganga Action Plan was envisaged in 1985 with the financial allocation of Rs. 1000 crores for the most sacred river of the country and its tributaries;

(b) if so, whether it is also not a fact that the water of the river is now even more polluted that when the Plan was conceived in 1985; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government towards Ganga basin States responsible for such dismal condition of river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Ganga Action Plan Phase I, the first attempt of Government to clean the river Ganga, was launchd in the year 1985. The Plan was taken up to treat partial pollution load (almost 65% at that time) of the river due to resource crunch. Under this Plan, 259 projects of pollution abatement spread over 25 towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were completed leading to the creation of additional sewage treatment capacity of 865 million litres per day (mld). The Plan was declared closed in March, 2000. Since GAP. Phase I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, GAP Phase II which includes plans for Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda besides Ganga was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. The present sanctioned cost of the works of pollution abatement for Ganga river under GAP Phase II is Rs. 492.16 crore against which an amount of Rs. 251.17 crore has been released to the State implementing agencies. Out of a total of 271 sanctioned schemes, 80 schemes have been completed so far and the balance schemes are in different stages of implementation.

With the completion of the pollution abatement works under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I (1985-2000) as well as the works undertaken under GAP Phase-II (1995 onwards), notwithstanding the phenomenal increase in urban population leading to substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past years, water quality of river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. A tabular statement in this regard is attached as per Statement (*See* below).

In order to further sustain the efforts towards pollution abatement of rivers the State Governments are advised in different fora from time to time to ensure timely release of funds for proper Operation and Maintenance of the assets created under the River Action Plans.

Statement

Water quality data for river Ganga
(Lean Season Average i.e. March-June)

S. No.	Station/Location	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in milligram/litre (mg/l)		Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in milligram/litre (mg/l)	
		1986	2005	1986	2005
1.	Rishikesh	8.1	8.50	1.7	1.00
2.	Hardwar D/S	8.1	8.10	1.8	1.40
3.	Garhmukteshwar	7.8	7.80	2.2	2.00
4.	Kannauj U/S	7.2	8.50	5.5	1.70
5.	Kannauj D/S	NA	7.60	NA	4.50
6.	Kanpur U/S	7.2	6.20	7.2	4.30
7.	Kanpur D/S	6.7	4.70	8.6	5.40
8.	Allahabad U/S*	6.4	8.50	11.4	5.50
9.	Allahabad D/S*	6.6	8.40	15.5	3.10
10.	Varanasi U/S*	5.6	8.60	10.1	2.00
11.	Varanasi D/S*	5.9	8.30	10.6	2.30
12.	Patna U/S	8.4	7.44	2.0	2.00
13.	Patna D/S	8.1	8.00	2.2	2.20
14.	Rajmahal	7.8	7.40	1.8	1.80
15.	Palta	NA	7.00	NA	3.10
16.	Uluberia	NA	5.40	NA	2.60

Bathing Water Quality Criteria: DO equal to or more than 5.0 mg/l
BOD equal to or less than 3.0, mg/l

* Lean Season averages (March '05)

Note: The above water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutes like Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi, Bharat Heavy Electricals. Ltd. (BHEL), Hardwar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, Indian Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow, etc.